

## Curriculum Guidelines for Grade 4

Emphasis: Christians are called to live as Jesus did by choosing a life of love characterized by the foundations of Christian Morality presented in the Old and New Testaments.

### 1. Church Teaching and Scripture

- A. The Ten Commandments are part of the covenant made with God.
- B. We respond to God's love by following the commandments.
- C. The Gospel Message is the good news of God's saving love.
- D. The words and life of Jesus contained in the scriptures teach us to live morally good lives.
- E. Jesus taught that God's Kingdom is justice and peace for all people.
- F. The law of the Gospel requires us to make choices based on love.
- G. The Beatitudes teach us how to be happy forever with God.
- H. We are judged by how well we have loved and shown mercy.
- I. Jesus, Mary, the saints and all that live the covenant are examples of how to live in God's Kingdom.
- J. Through God's grace, Mary remains free of original sin and personal sin.

### 2. Liturgy and Sacraments

- A. Jesus calls us to a spiritual life.
- B. The Eucharist is the central celebration of the Catholic community.
- C. In the Eucharist Jesus makes us one with himself and others. He offers himself for us, feeds us and remains with us.
- D. We recognize the Penitential Rite in the Mass as a form of reconciliation.
- E. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we celebrate God's forgiveness and mercy. Reconciliation calls us to reflect upon our life, be sorry for our sins and to change our life for the better.
- F. The season of Lent is a time when the Church community focuses on conversion through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- G. The Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday) is the holiest season of the Church year.

### 3. Prayer

- A. Regular examination of conscience helps us to change our lives and grow in holiness.
- B. In places of worship we show reverence and a prayerful attitude.
- C. Prayers to learn and practice:
  - Penitential Rite of the Mass
  - Prayer of Sorrow
  - Act of Faith, Hope, Love
  - Stations of the Cross
  - Rosary
  - Review of Prayers learned in previous years

### 4. Morality

- A. A Christian moral life is putting our beliefs into action.
- B. We live moral lives by obeying the Ten Commandments and living the Beatitudes.
- C. A virtue is a good habit or practice that helps you follow Jesus.
- D. Christians make moral choices; all choices have consequences.
- E. Steps for making good moral choice:
  - Pray for the help of the Holy Spirit.
  - Recall God's law and the Church's teachings.
  - Consider the consequences of the choice.
  - Seek advice when necessary.
  - Remember Jesus is with us and speak with him about the choice.
  - Recall that our decision will affect our relationship with God and others.
- F. God have given us the gifts of grace, free will and conscience.
- G. All people experience temptation but we have a choice whether to sin or not.
- H. Peer pressure influences us to do good or bad.
- I. We sin when we disobey God and his Law, whether by thought, word, action or omission.
- J. Venial is a less serious sin because it weakens our relationship with God and the community but does not completely destroy it.
- K. Mortal sin is a serious sin because we turn away from God completely.
- L. A mistake or accident is not a sin.
- M. When we sin God's mercy and love never leave us.

N. God forgives us when we are truly sorry for our sins and seek God's forgiveness.

5. Church ~ The Christian Community

- A. We live the life of Jesus by following the Ten Commandments, the teachings of the Beatitudes, and the Great Commandment of Jesus.
- B. The Church is a community of faith, hope, love and forgiveness.
- C. The Church family teaches and nourishes us on our journey of faith.

6. Ecumenism

- A. We pray as a Church for peace and unity in the world community.
- B. We openly share our faith with others.
- C. We join in prayer and celebration with those of other faiths.

7. Service

- A. All members of the Church are called to carry out Jesus' ministry.
- B. We serve others like Jesus did by practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- C. We practice stewardship by caring for God's Creation.

8. Words to know:

conscience

conversion

free will

grace

liturgy

morality

reverence

stewardship

Triduum

virtues

Corporal Works of Mercy

covenant

Good News

justice

mercy

mortal sin

Spiritual Works of Mercy

temptation

venial sin